



for immediate release

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LOCAL SURGERY CENTER STRESSES "SAFETY FIRST" THIS LAWN MOWING SEASON

Appleton, Wis.— The Hand and Upper Extremity Center of Northeast Wisconsin, Ltd.—the only area facility providing surgery and rehabilitation in one location for disorders and injuries of the finger, hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, and shoulder—is working to prevent lawn mower injuries this year by stressing "safety first."

Each year, more than 74,000 small children, adolescents, and adults across the country are injured by the improper handling of lawn mowers. "People take the power of lawn mowers for granted," said Dr. Larry Livengood, surgeon at the center. "But the reality is that lawn mower blades move with such force they can eject foreign objects, like stones, at up to 100 miles per hour."

The majority of lawnmower injuries are caused by direct contact with rotating or jammed blades as the result of improper or careless handling of the machine, according to Livengood. The Hand and Upper Extremity Center of Northeast Wisconsin is hoping to prevent such injuries by presenting the DO's and DON'Ts of lawn mower operation:

When operating a lawn mower,

DO:

1. Turn the lawn mower off before unclogging grass jams
2. Use a stick to unclog blades
3. Keep the safety shields in place
4. Keep feet and hands away from all moving parts
5. Keep a clear head and concentrate

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DO NOT:

1. Carry passengers on riding lawn mowers
2. Tow passengers in carts behind riding lawn mowers
3. Pull push mowers backwards
4. Wear sandals or open toed shoes while operating a lawn mower
5. Mow sloping lawns up and down the slope with power mowers
6. Mow sloping lawns across the slope with riding mowers
7. Consume alcoholic beverages before using your lawn mower

Founded in 1987, the Hand and Upper Extremity Center of Northeast Wisconsin, Ltd. is home to some of the Midwest's most highly trained and experienced hand and upper extremity surgeons, nurses, and therapists. By providing comprehensive surgical and rehabilitative services under one roof, the Center's staff is able to work as a team to achieve the best functional outcome for the patient. Based in Appleton, the Center also has satellite clinics in Marinette and Manitowoc, Wis. For more information, please visit www.newhands.md.

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Editor's Note: *Interviews with Dr. Livengood or other members of the Hand and Upper Extremity Center of Northeast Wisconsin can be arranged by contacting Rob Carviou at 920.435.9800 or rcarviou@goltz.com*